



## SOUTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

*Saving Money and Protecting the Environment Through More Efficient Energy Use*

### PRESS RELEASE

### PRESS RELEASE

### PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** Dec. 5, 2013

**From:** Suzanne Pletcher, SWEEP (303) 447-0078 ext. 5; (707) 489-1325 cell

### **DOE Awards \$2.2 Million Grant to Southwest Energy Efficiency Project**

#### **Grant will advance combined heat and power projects in Southwest**

BOULDER, CO—The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, a non-profit that works to advance energy efficiency in the Southwest, was selected for a \$2.2 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy to help regional businesses and communities reduce their energy costs, improve efficiency, and strengthen their energy resiliency and reliability through the use of combined heat and power (CHP).

DOE defines CHP as the concurrent production of electricity or mechanical power and useful thermal energy (heating and/or cooling) from a single source of energy. The single source of energy can either be a fuel or waste heat. CHP is typically located right at or near where the energy is used. ([click to link to infographic and fact sheet](#))

“These local, on-site systems are clean, efficient, and cost-effective. The challenge now is to show businesses and communities how this technology could work for them, greatly reducing their energy use and costs and improving reliable energy service,” said Christine Brinker, director of the U.S. DOE Southwest CHP TAP and a senior associate at SWEEP. “We help provide the information and resources they need to evaluate and move forward with these projects,” she said.

Under the terms of the four-year award, SWEEP will run the U.S. [DOE Southwest CHP Technical Assistance Partnership \(CHP TAP\)](#), one of seven CHP TAPs established by DOE to provide national coverage. The CHP TAPs will provide technical assistance to large energy users and other stakeholders to help them consider CHP in their facilities and to help them through the project development process, from initial CHP screening to installation. The CHP TAPs also will provide market opportunity analyses as well as education and outreach.



## SOUTHWEST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

*Saving Money and Protecting the Environment Through More Efficient Energy Use*

The U.S. DOE's Southwest CHP TAP will work with businesses and communities in the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. SWEEP is teaming with sister organization [SPEER](#), a similar regional efficiency organization serving Texas and Oklahoma to provide assistance in those states.

DOE estimates that the U.S. has approximately 82 gigawatts of CHP currently installed, or about eight percent of U.S. generating capacity. A recent Executive Order sets a goal of an additional 40 gigawatts nationally, which would:

- Save American manufacturers and companies \$10 billion each year
- Spur \$40 to \$80 billion in new capital investments in plants and facilities
- Save one percent of all energy use in the U.S. (one quadrillion BTUs of energy)
- Reduce emissions by the equivalent of taking 25 million cars off the road
- Strengthen the resiliency, reliability, and security of our energy infrastructure

Many industries and sectors in Southwestern states can benefit from CHP, including food processing, paper mills, refineries, chemical plants, primary metals, and other large users of energy, said Brinker. CHP also works well for commercial and public-sector buildings—or groups of buildings—such as college campuses, urban developments, military bases, and hospitals, she said. ##

*The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project is a public interest non-profit that works to advance energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. For more information, visit <http://www.swenergy.org>*

*The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource, **SPEER**, is a public interest non-profit that works to accelerate the adoption of advanced building systems and energy efficient products, service, and practices in Texas and Oklahoma.*

### **CONTACT:**

**Christine Brinker**, Director, Southwest CHP Technical Assistance Partnership; Senior Associate, SWEEP; 720-939-8333; [cbrinker@swenergy.org](mailto:cbrinker@swenergy.org)

**Claudia Tighe**, CHP Deployment Program Manager, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy; 202-287-1899; [Claudia.tighe@ee.doe.gov](mailto:Claudia.tighe@ee.doe.gov)

**Robert King**, SPEER, 512-279-0751; [RKing@GoodCompanyAssociates.com](mailto:RKing@GoodCompanyAssociates.com)